Library

I

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER,

1963.

ooooOOOoooo

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

A. W. HANSELL, M.B.,B.S.
Medical Officer of Health.

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

F O R T H E

YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER,

1 9 6 3.

ooooOOOoooo

A. W. HANSELL, M.B.,B.S.
Medical Officer of Health.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28912287

BEDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

North Riding of Yorkshire.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for
the year ending
31st December, 1963.

To The Chairman and Members of the
Bedale Rural District Council,

SIR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st December, 1963.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

(1) One Medical Officer of Health (Part-time)
(2) One Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector (Full-time)
(3) One Additional Public Health Inspector (Full-time)
(4) One Waterworks Manager (Full-time)
(5) One Housing Officer (Full-time)

STATISTICS.

Area	43,302 acres.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1963)	8,320
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books (end of 1963)	2,456
Rateable value of the Area	£238,806
Product of a Penny Rate	864

NOTE:

The figure given above for the estimated resident population includes Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the Area.

The estimated population last year was - 8,110.

Owing to the inclusion of the Armed Forces in the estimated population it is necessary to multiply the Crude Birth Rate and Crude Death Rate by their "comparability factors" (namely 1.01 and 1.12) in order to attain the rates comparable with other Areas in the country.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Legitimate	74	78	152)	Crude Birth Rate
Illegitimate	2	3	5)	18·87
Adjusted Birth Rate	19·05			
Stillbirths.				
Legitimate	2	3	5	
Illegitimate	--	-	0	
Deaths.	41	50	91	Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population. 10·93
Adjusted Death Rate:-			12·24	

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Deaths of Infants under Four Weeks of Age.

Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	0

Deaths of Infants under One Week of Age.

Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	0

Deaths from Maternal Causes ... ... Nil

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) Laboratory facilities. (b) Ambulance Services.
(c) Hospitals. (d) Nursing Services.
(e) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

During the year under review the above services have on the whole proved satisfactory, though I would still stress the need for more accommodation for the chronic sick and infirm.

DATA SUPPLIED BY THE WATERWORKS MANAGER.

W A T E R.

QUANTITY.

During the year under review, it was again necessary to turn off the water in some parts of the Council's District and this was done during the hours least likely to cause inconvenience, i.e. between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. On an average, this was done once weekly but action, in the way of publishing notices to consumers, had not to be resorted to.

QUALITY.

The principal water supply from the Bellerby Intake Works was treated by chlorination and the quality generally has been most satisfactory. Nineteen samples were taken from fittings supplied from the Council's mains in various parts of the Rural District. Such samples were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory at Northallerton, for analysis, and generally they were found to be free from any contamination.

AUXILIARY SUPPLIES.

It was necessary to continue, on a regular basis, the supply from the mains of the Northallerton Rural District Council. This supply originated at the Northallerton Water Board's Cod Beck Source which is fully treated and without this additional supply, serious difficulty would have been encountered.

FRACTURED MAINS.

Fractured mains occured at Bedale, Hackforth, Kirkby Fleetham, Leeming Leeming Bar, Scruton, Well and West Tanfield and in all cases repair work was carried out with the least possible delay so as to prevent inconvenience to the consumers in the areas affected.

PROPERTIES SUPPLIED.

There are 2,266 dwellinghouses supplied from the public water mains serving a population of approximately 8,320. In addition, approximately 116 dwellings are served from private supplies and there are 9 supplied by a stand pipe.

The following is the position for each Parish in the Rural District:-

	From Public Mains.	Private Supplies etc.
Ainderby Miers with Holtby	8	9
Aiskew Non-Lighting Area	160	1
Aiskew Lighting Area	149	2
Bedale	524	-
Burneston	74	3
Burrill with Cowling	35	1
Carthorpe	84	-
Clifton	17	-
Crakehall	138	6
East Tanfield	5	11
Exelby, Leeming & Newton	183	-
Firby	23	2
Gatenby	10	1
Hackforth	35	2
Howgrave	3	-
Killerby	10	-
Kirkby Fleetham	151	8
Kirklington	64	8
Langthorne	24	-
Rand Grange	2	1
Rookwith	5	1
Scruton	92	-
Snape with Thorp	131	-
Sutton Howgrave	24	1
Swainby with Allerthorpe	4	3
Theakston	19	-
Thirn	24	2
Thornton Watlass	54	2
Well	92	-
West Tanfield	122	52
	2,266	116

This figure excludes the 198 married quarters at the Leeming R. A. F. Station but these are also supplied from the public mains.

CONNECTIONS AND METERS.

There were 59 connections taken from the Council's mains and 50 meters were installed. The connections were mainly for supplies to farms and private houses in the Rural District. Most of the meters installed were in respect of the Council waste detection programme and as part of an endeavour to reduce the gallonage per head of population which had been the subject of adverse comment at Ministry level.

CONSUMPTION.

Average daily consumption in the Bedale Rural Area	-	564,000
Average daily consumption in the Leyburn Rural Area	-	57,000
Leeming Aerodrome average daily consumption	-	78,000
		699,000

NORTHALLERTON & THE DALES WATER BOARD.

With effect from the 1st October, 1963, the Northallerton & The Dales Water Board came into operation and the Bedale Rural District Council is one of the constituent Authorities. At the Board's request, the Council continued the day to day management of the Water Undertaking in the Bedale Rural District until the end of the year under review and indeed will do so

until the 31st March, 1964. Of course, the Board will undertake the policy making duties during this time and it is felt that, in the forseeable future, proposals for getting additional water into the Bedale Rural District will have to be studied. In the past, the Council has been precluded from undertaking certain capital schemes as it was the opinion of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government that this was a matter for the Water Board when formed who would be a position to deal with it as part of its programme for augmentation of supplies in the enlarged area.

DATA SUPPLIED BY THE SURVEYOR & CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

During this year Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes have been completed and brought into operation at Leeming and Leeming Bar and at Thornton Watlass. New Sewage Disposal Works have also been completed at Snape and are now operating satisfactorily. The completion of the Leeming and Thornton Watlass Schemes has made possible the conversion of privies etc. into water closets and this has been encouraged by the Council offering a grant of £10 (Ten Pounds) to Owners carrying out such work. As a result, at the end of the year, practically every house with the exception of condemned properties had a water closet provided. This very desirable improvement is also reflected in the work of refuse collection due to the provision of dustbins in place of the old ashpits which usually accompanied the privies.

As the year ends schemes are being finalised and land purchased for Works Sites for the sewering of Great and Little Crakehall, Kirkby Fleetham with Fencotes and Carthorpe. These schemes, it is hoped, will be commenced during 1964 and all are urgently needed to prevent pollution in existing water courses and also to provide for modern amenities at many houses in the villages which still lack proper bathrooms and water closets.

Many villages still require proper sewerage facilities and these are being dealt with in accordance with a programme based on the cases of greatest need being dealt with first. Scruton will be the next village to receive attention and the Council's Consulting Engineer has already been asked to bring the Scheme, which he has already prepared, up to date so that there may be no unnecessary delay in proceeding with it at the appropriate time.

The whole of the sewerage service except some gutter maintenance is carried out by direct labour and is proving very satisfactory. The Cesspool Emptying Machine has proved a most valuable piece of equipment, not only for efficiently dealing with Council owned settling tanks, but in addition for dealing with private tanks. Many such tanks had not been emptied for very long periods and I feel sure that the adequate servicing of all these settling tanks must have resulted in a reduction of the pollution to water courses. In addition there have been less blockages occuring on the village drains and sewers which may well be due to the frequent and thorough cleaning of our own settling tanks.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

This service has continuedon a contract basis and has been carried out quite satisfactorily. Any complaints of neglect have been dealt with quickly by the Contractor and these have not been large in number.

As stated earlier in this Report the privy ashpit in slowly disappearing but the rate at which these can be abolished is of necessity governed by the availability of proper sewers.

Refuse is still disposed of by tipping at the Leeming Bar Tip and the Bedale Tip. The Bedale Tip is now almost full and is not being used at the present time to any extent. When settlement and levelling has taken place there will be a small amount of tipping space left but it will soon be filled. The only tip then left will be at Leeming Bar which necessitates a long haul with refuse from the Southern end of the District. Efforts are still being made to secure a tip in the Southern area but without success so far. Leeming Bar Tip is filling more rapidly than anticipated, no doubt due to the present day bulky refuse. There is, nevertheless, a large amount of tipping space left and the tip should serve for a number of years.

The present Refuse Collection Contract expires on the 31st October, 1964 and towards the end of the year the Council gave consideration to the future of this service, as a result, it was agreed that a weekly refuse collection service in the area should be provided after the present contract expires. An estimate of this work on a direct labour basis was provided and at the same time the contractor was requested to submit a tender for a similar service on a contract basis. This tender is now awaited and the matter will receive further consideration by the Council when it is received.

Rodent Control.

This service continues unchanged, no men are directly employed on the work but there are two contractors available to serve the area. They are willing to deal with any premises where the need arises.

One of the Contractors does regularly attend the Refuse Tips and these are kept clear of vermin.

The Council's Officers are also always available to advise in cases where infestations do occur and they carry out inspections when making routine visits.

Housing.

Housing progress during the year has been very satisfactory and there is a steady but marked improvement in housing standards in the area. This is being brought about by continuing to deal with unfit houses by either Closing or Demolition procedure and by encouraging the re-conditioning of existing dwellings, together with an adequate programme of new Council House building.

Re-conditioning of existing houses is encouraged by the Council's readiness to allow Improvement Grants in all suitable cases and during the year 24 Standard Grants and 14 Discretionary Grants have been made available to owners, a total of 38 Grants as against a total of 34 Grants made during 1962. This action is not only making the older houses more pleasant to live in but is saving dwellings which would otherwise become unfit for human habitation in future years.

The Council's Slum Clearance programme continues and is in fact nearing completion, 27 houses have been closed this year, which makes a total of 241 houses so dealt with since the programme commenced.

The Council have built and completed 31 houses during the year and in addition 23 private houses have been completed. As the year ended a further 23 Council Houses were in course of erection together with 23 private houses.

The Council's Samwaies Court 'Old Peoples' Development' has been completed and is a very real success. The tenants are all very happy in their own bungalows and make full use of the Common Room for their Social activities. This scheme is to be extended by providing more units of accommodation on the Benkhill Drive site in the area nearest to Sussex Street. Close proximity of the two sites will, of course, enable the Common Room and Wardens services to be available to both sites.

The large caravan sites near Leeming R. A. F. Station continue to be fully occupied and are maintained in good condition by their respective Owners. These sites provide accommodation for 34 residential caravans occupied principally by persons temporarily stationed at Leeming. There are, in addition, nine other individual caravan sites in the area, each accommodating one van occupied by persons who apparently prefer this type of accommodation.

All the sites are satisfactory and it has not been necessary to take any statutory action regarding any of them during the year.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The production of meat continues to be an important industry in the area and during the year 103,283 animals were slaughtered at the four licenced slaughterhouses. This is slightly less than in 1962 when 109,018 animals were slaughtered, a record number for the area. The greater part of the output of the slaughtering premises is still exported to all parts of the country and meat inspection remains a heavy burden for the Public Health Staff. In October the Meat Inspection Regulations came into force requiring Local Authorities to institute a full Meat Inspection Service in their areas. The purpose of these regulations is to ensure that every animal slaughtered for human consumption is inspected at the time of slaughter and that only animals found to be free from disease and fit for food shall be allowed to reach the Butcher's Shop. Such animals are to be stamped to show that they have been passed and the Local Authority is allowed to make a charge for this service. When considering the implementation of these Regulations the Council found that it would not be possible to operate the new Meat Inspection Service with the existing Public Health Staff, it being obvious that an Inspector would have to be on duty at each of the larger slaughtering premises during the hours of slaughtering. The Members therefore decided to advertise for two Meat Inspectors, but in spite of repeated advertisements, these appointments have not yet been filled. The Council are therefore compelled to operate under the two years period of grace allowed by the Regulations and whilst the 100% Meat Inspection Service is being provided at the two smaller slaughterhouses by existing Staff, the old system of inspection is still being operated at the larger premises.

A statement, Appendix I, showing the animals slaughtered and meat condemned is attached to the Report from which it will be seen that the incidence of tuberculosis in all animals is steadily declining. It is interesting to note that eight years ago 51·22% of all cows slaughtered were affected with tuberculosis whereas in 1963 only 1·01% were affected. The 1963 percentage is, of course, made up entirely of cows which have reacted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food routine tests on the farms.

Condemned meat is disposed of to firms specialising in this trade and the arrangement worksquite satisfactorily.

Food Shops and Food Hygiene.

Food retailing and manufacturing premises are inspected regularly and there have been no serious causes for complaint. Where minor contraventions of the regulations have been found occupiers have willingly co-operated to comply with the relevant Regulations.

Factories Act.

Regular inspections of the Factory premises are made and all contraventions found have been readily remedied by the occupiers.

A statement is attached, Appendix II, showing particulars on the administration of the Act so far as it concerns the Council. No Statement under Part 8 of the Act is included as this is a Nil Return for this Area.

APPENDIX I

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during the year ending DECEMBER, 1963.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	4,962	396	130	18,216	79,579
Number inspected	4,962	396	130	18,216	79,579
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis Whole carcases condemned	8	6	17	85	190
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	640	51	4	497	1,675
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticercosis.	13·06	14·39	16·15	3·19	2·34
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	1	-	3	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	4	-	-	1,130
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.02	1·01	2·31	-	1·42
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX II

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of: Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	9	7	Nil	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	28	57	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' Premises)	30	42	Nil	Nil
Total.....	67	106	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases")

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	3				
Overcrowding (S.2)	Nil				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	Nil				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	Nil				

Particulars (1)	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	Nil				
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	Nil				
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1		2	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	Nil				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	Nil				
Total.....	2	1		2	

PREVALANCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Total Cases	Deaths
Pneumonia	7	3
Scarlet Fever	1	Nil
Measles	45	Nil
Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
Food Poisoning	1	Nil
Whooping Cough	53	Nil

TONSILLITIS

During November an epidemic of tonsillitis occurred amongst children attending the Bedale County Modern School, the Bedale Church of England School and the Leeming Bar Church of England School.

The nature of the infection was carefully investigated by the County School Medical Staff and in 46 cases the type of germ discovered was one prone to cause damage to the kidneys. Fortunately only two cases of nephritis developed and these made complete recovery under the care of their family doctors.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year. In each case the lungs were the seat of the disease - one man aged 66 and one woman aged 50.

No deaths from this disease occurred during the year.

I should here like to thank your Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector, (Mr. J. F. Dunning), for his valuable help throughout the year and I would also like to record my indebtedness to your late Waterworks Manager, (Mr. J. Jameson), for his efficient and ready help during the last twenty-two years and to congratulate him on his appointment to the Staff of the newly formed Northallerton and The Dales Water Board.

I have the honour to be Sir, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALAN W. HANSELL,

Medical Officer of Health.